

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-02

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TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /166 W

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TOKYO FOR EXIMBANK CHAIRMAN KEARNS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD US US

SUBJ: ALKHIMOV TV INTERVIEW

1. EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM " VREMYA". MARCH 26 CARRIED  
UNUSUALLY LONG ( TEN MINUTES) AND UPBEAT INTERVIEW  
FROM WASHINGTON WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER  
V. S. ALKHIMOV CONCERNING SOVIET TRAFE  
DELEGATION VISIT TO THE US. ALKHIMOV MENTIONED  
FACT THAT DELEGATION HAD MET WITH NUMBER OF HIGH-  
RANKING US OFFICIALS ( DENT, FLANIGAN, KISSINGER,  
CASEY, ETC.) AND HAD HELD CONFERENCES WITH LARGE  
GROUPS OF US BUSINESSMEN. MAIN QUESTIONS DISCUSSED  
WERE HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH SOVIET TRADE ORGANIZA-  
TIONS AND HOW TO " HASTEN THE PASSAGE" OF US-  
SOVIET TRADE LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS. WITH REGARD TO  
THE LATTER, ALKHIMOV SAID THAT MANY BUSINESSMEN  
HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HELPING OUT BY TALKING  
TO CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS. ALTHOUGH THERE  
WERE SOME WHO WERE " TIED TO THE PAST AND THE  
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POLITICS OF THE COLD WAR," HE DECLARED THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS WERE "ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF TRADE RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR. HE NOTED THE CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE KAMA RIVER TRUCK PLANT ("225 MILLION DOLLARS INSLY SEEK WAYS TO PLACE SOME KIND OF LIMITS ON QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. SOVIET SIDE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM.

3. SEMENOV CALLED FOR PROHIBITIONON DEVELOPMENT AND DE-  
PLOYMENT OF CERTAIN ARMS NOT COVERED IN INTERIM AGREEMENT,  
SAYING AGREEMENT ON SUCH MEASURES TIMELY AND POSSIBLE SINCE  
MANY TYPES OF SUCH ARMS ARE NOT YET X DEPLOYED WIDELY  
OR NOT DEPLOYED AT ALL. HE THEN PRESENTED PROPOSALS TO BAN  
DEVELOPMENT, TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF:

A) NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT,

B) LONG- RANGE AIR- TO- SURFACE MISSILES,

C) INTERCONTINENTAL CRUISE MISSILES AND SEA- BASED,  
CRUISE MISSILES SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO STRIKE LAND  
TARGETS,

D) STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILES ON WATERBORNE PLATFORMS,  
EXCEPT FOR SUBMARINES,

E) STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILES ON AIRBORNE LAUNCHERS,

F) ANY FIXED OR MOBILE DEVICES FOR LAUNCHING OF BALLISTIC  
MISSILES WHICH COULD BE DEPLOYED ON SEABED OR OCEAN  
FLOOR OR IN SUBSOIL THEREOF, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL SEAS AND  
INTERNAL WATERS.

4. ON QUESTION OF ICBM THROW WEIGHT, SEMENOV SAID SOVIET SIDE  
CAREFULLY STUDIED US PROPOSAL AND CONCLUDES IT IS  
INCORRECT TO SINGLE OUT ONE ARBITRARILY CHOSEN PARAMETER OF  
ONE TYPE OF WEAPON. COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF ICBMS DEPENDS TO  
NO LESSER EXTENT UPON OTHER VERY IMPORTANT FACTORS.

5. COMMENTING ON SEMENOV STATEMENT, JOHNSON REMARKED THAT  
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SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SINGLE OUT BOMBERS, THAT ELEMENT OF DETERRENT IN WHICH US HAS SOME ADVANTAGE. SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BAN NEW BOMBER WHILE SOVIET SIDE GOES AHEAD WITH MAJOR PROGRAMS INVOLVING NEW LAND- AND SEA- BASED MISSILES. HE HAD DIFFICULTY SEEING HOW SOVIET PROPOSALS DO NOT VIOLATE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.

6. IN FORMAL STATEMENT, JOHNSON ADDRESSED SOVIET MARCH 23 PROPOSALS ON BOMBERS, NOTING THAT INCLUDING HEAVY BOMBERS IN AGGREGATE WAS ORIGINALLY SOVIET SUGGESTION. SOVIET PROPOSAL TO BAN USE OF STRATEGIC BOMBERS FOR DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SELECTS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT LEAST DESTABILIZING ELEMENT OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC FORCES AND ONE IN WHICH US HAS NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE. IT APPEARS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO SOVIET SIDE AND WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH EQUAL SECURITY AND ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE NOR CONTRIBUTE TO STRATEGIC STABILITY.

7. TURNING TO SOVIET PROPOSAL ON AIR- TO- SURFACE MISSILES, JOHNSON NOTED SUCH SYSTEMS ARE NECESSARY TO PERMIT DEFENSE PENETRATION CAPABILITY TO BE MAINTAINED. STABILITY WOULD BE SERIOUSLY ERODED IF ONE SIDE BELIEVED OTHER SIDE' S DEFENSES COULD REDUCE ITS RETALIATORY CAPABILITY BELOW LEVEL NECESSARY FOR DETERRENCE. RECOGNIZING THIS CONCEPT, SIDES CONCLUDED ABM TREATY, BUT SOVIET APPROACH-- TO LIMIT BOMBER ARMAMENTS BUT NOT AIR DEFENSE-- IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS CONCEPT. IN VIEW OF MAGNITUDE AND CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE, ANY PROPOSAL TO CONSTRAIN BOMBER ARMAMENTS, UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE CONSTRAINTS ON  
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